



Bonner County

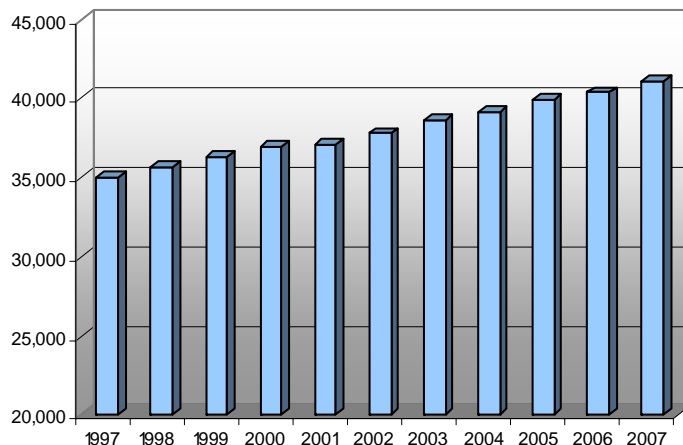
October 2008

Work Force Trends

Population

Bonner County has experienced rapid population growth as its beauty, recreational opportunities and quality of life attracted thousands of new residents. From 1997 to 2007, the county's population grew 17 percent from 34,986 to 41,050, while Idaho's population grew 22 percent and the U.S. population grew 11 percent. Population growth accelerated considerably after 2003, when it began receiving national attention as a great place to live.

The county seat, Sandpoint, had a population of 8,216 in 2007. Communities bordering Sandpoint—Ponderay, Kootenai, and Dover—had populations of 697, 474, and 517 respectively. The largest city west of Sandpoint is Priest River with 1,909 residents. Clark Force with 578 residents is the largest town to the east.

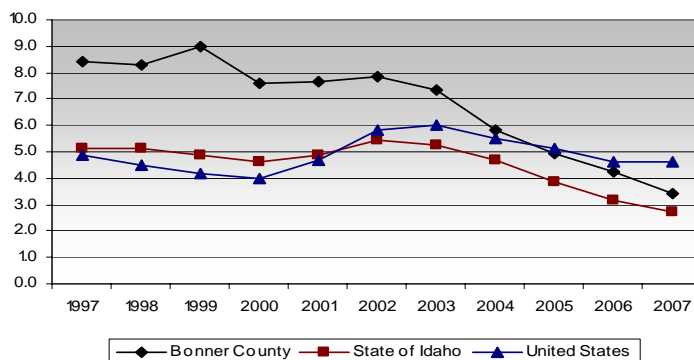


Labor Force & Employment

Bonner County has enjoyed considerable success in diversifying and growing its economy. Bonner County manufacturing jobs rose an impressive 81 percent from 1,285 in 1997 to 2,322 in 2007, while U.S. manufacturing jobs fell 20 percent. Manufacturers—including Litehouse, salad dressings; Quest Aircraft, airplanes; Unicep Packaging, plastic applicators; Thorne Research, nutritional supplements; Cygnus, machining; Diedrich Manufacturing, coffee-roasting machines; and Encoder Products, electronics—added jobs to the county's mainstay, wood products. In 2007, wood products manufacturers employed 830 people, while other manufacturers employed 1,492.

The largest private employer is Coldwater Creek, a national retailer that has its corporate headquarters near Sandpoint. Panhandle State Bank recently moved into its new corporate headquarters in downtown Sandpoint.

Unemployment Rates



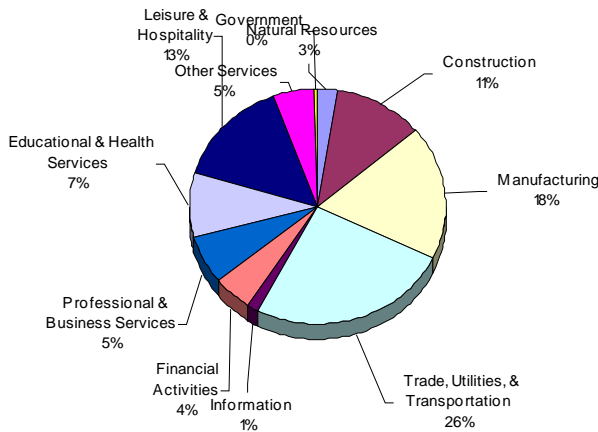
Development of Schweitzer Mountain Resort and Sandpoint's reputation as a haven for the arts have contributed to tourism growth. Schweitzer's expansions since 1990 have boosted winter employment at local motels, restaurants and stores. As important as the winter tourism season is, the summer brings even more tourists.

In the last year, the county lost more than 400 sawmill and logging jobs, mostly in the Priest River area. The trouble in the timber industry and the effect of high fuel and input prices and a dragging U.S. economy on manufacturing, tourism, and construction is slowing the county's progress.

Labor Force	Sep 2007	Sep 2008
Civilian Labor Force	20,244	21,212
Total Employment	19,633	19,971
Unemployed	611	1,241
% of Labor Force Unemployed	3.0	5.8
State of Idaho % Unemployed	2.7	5.0
U.S. % Unemployed	4.7	6.1

Labor Force	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Civilian Labor Force	16,962	17,258	17,414	17,624	18,065	18,558	18,481	19,389	20,282	20,343	20,769
Unemployment	1,417	1,429	1,571	1,335	1,387	1,460	1,361	1,134	1,003	866	715
% of Labor Force Unemployed	8.4	8.3	9.0	7.6	7.7	7.9	7.4	5.8	4.9	4.3	3.4
Employment	15,545	15,829	15,843	16,288	16,678	17,098	17,120	18,255	19,279	19,477	20,055

Nonfarm Payroll Jobs for 2007



Economic Development

The Bonner County Economic Development Corporation and the Priest River Development Corporation are working to bring more jobs to the county. They can show potential employers the county's high quality of life, excellent business climate, and low business costs.

The county's growing population and ever-growing number of tourists benefit many retail and service businesses. Between 1997 and 2007, the number of private-sector employers in Bonner County grew 43 percent from 1,208 to 1,726.

Major Employers

Bonner General Hospital
Coldwater Creek (national retailer)
Litehouse (manufacturer)
Quest Aircraft (manufacturer)
Riley Creek Lumber
Schweitzer Mountain Resort
Unicep Packaging (manufacturer)
Wal-Mart

Occupational Wages*

Starting Wage

Assemblers	\$9.75
Bookkeepers	\$10.50
Carpenters, Journey-level	\$18.00
Cashiers	\$8.25
Clerks, General Office	\$8.00
Clerks, Retail	\$8.75
Cooks, Restaurant	\$12.00
Janitors	\$9.00
Laborers, General	\$11.00
Millwrights	\$16.00
Nurses, Registered	\$18.50
Sawmill Workers	\$11.00
Secretaries, General	\$9.00
Truck Drivers, Heavy	\$13.50

* Additional Occupational Wage data can be found on the Idaho Department of Labor web site at lmi.idaho.gov.

Covered Employment & Average Annual Wages Per Job for 1997, 2006, & 2007	1997		2006		2007	
	Average Employment	Average Wages	Average Employment	Average Wages	Average Employment	Average Wages
Total Covered Wages	11,024	\$19,534	14,355	\$30,150	14,716	\$30,562
Agriculture	286	\$24,055	265	\$29,414	243	\$30,705
Mining	51	\$30,383	131	\$42,837	154	\$43,869
Construction	712	\$20,532	1,425	\$27,957	1,422	\$29,424
Manufacturing	1,285	\$25,892	2,297	\$34,967	2,321	\$34,929
Trade, Utilities, & Transportation	3,010	\$19,238	3,044	\$35,508	3,231	\$34,172
Information	162	\$27,820	178	\$33,207	173	\$35,819
Financial Activities	394	\$23,765	582	\$38,140	589	\$39,425
Professional and Business Services	531	\$18,708	819	\$38,563	867	\$39,684
Educational and Health Services	645	\$18,358	1,120	\$25,918	1,106	\$26,777
Leisure and Hospitality	1,577	\$8,874	1,757	\$12,042	1,845	\$13,325
Other Services	365	\$14,478	395	\$20,427	428	\$20,440
Government	2,006	\$23,032	2,341	\$31,254	2,338	\$32,274

Per Capita Income	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Bonner County	\$17,442	\$18,553	\$19,429	\$20,374	\$21,211	\$21,160	\$21,842	\$23,873	\$25,746	\$27,767
State of Idaho	\$20,648	\$21,789	\$22,786	\$24,077	\$25,024	\$25,221	\$25,524	\$27,361	\$28,301	\$29,920
United States	\$25,334	\$26,883	\$27,939	\$29,843	\$30,574	\$30,821	\$31,504	\$33,123	\$34,757	\$36,714

Information provided by U.S. Census Bureau



This county is served by the office listed below:
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